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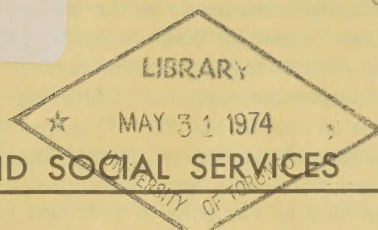
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ONTARIO MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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SOUTH-WESTERN ONTARIO CHIEFS PLAN MEETING

The first meeting under Meeting '73 of Chiefs and representatives in the London southwestern Ontario region took place at the Howard Johnson Motor Hotel in London Feb. 24-25.

This committee, under the sponsorship of CORAID, (Central Ontario Regional Amalgamated Indian Development Council) met with representatives of the Ontario Provincial Police, municipal police forces, and Solicitor-General's office at Orillia on January 12, to discuss a wide range of problems of mutual concern to Indians and police alike.

The VTR crew of CORAID presented a demonstration of the work they are undertaking and recorded certain segments of the meeting. Further details of this meeting will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

THUNDER BAY REGION CHIEFS PLAN MEETING

Discussions covered such topics as recruitment and training of local Indian people to serve as police officers; jurisdictional responsibilities of the RCMP, (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) and the OPP (Ontario Provincial Police) and municipal police forces; human rights, etc. Although no firm decisions were arrived at, it was agreed that the better understanding which resulted should encourage the planning of further meetings. It was, however, decided that the RCMP be invited to attend future meetings.

The Thunder Bay Region Chiefs and representatives met at the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Center, Feb. 23-24, under the program "Meeting '73".

The provincial agencies were headed by Mr. D.D. Higley of the Solicitor General's office, Superintendent K. Collins of Barrie and Miss A. Whitley of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Police Chief Blanche represented the Orillia Police Department.

An organizational meeting was held in Thunder Bay on Jan. 26, with Chief Pat Hardy and Dave Thomas of Rocky Bay; Cecil and Chief George Finlayson of Longlac; Martin Bannon and Chief Leonard Pelletier, Fort William Reserve; Joe and Chief Toussant Michano, Pic 50, Heron Bay, in attendance. Mr. William Sault of Thunder Bay was named co-ordinator by the planning committee.

Representing the Indian communities were Chief Norman Stinson, Chief Flora Tobobundung, Chief Rodney Monague, Mr. Merril Crowe, Mr. Leslie McCue, Mr. Joseph Noganosh and Mrs. Marlene Stiles.

It was also suggested by the delegates that committees be organized as task forces to carry on investigations in problem areas between meetings.

Invitations to attend the Feb. 23-24, meeting were extended to all elected Provincial and Federal representatives in the region. Further details of this meeting will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

JAMES BAY REGION HOLDS FIRST MEETING

Chiefs from bands on the west coast of James Bay, joined by those from the Constance Lake and Abitibi bands, met for further discussions under the auspices of Meeting '73 at Moosonee on Jan. 22 and 23. This was their first meeting as a separate group. Representatives had previously been participants in the meetings held at Timmins in 1971 and 1972. Mr. David Fletcher of Moose Factory coordinated the details of planning the meeting.

Discussions were conducted mainly in Cree, with English translations whenever necessary for resource information. Problems relating to health, welfare and education were discussed with representatives of the Federal and Provincial Governments.

The Moose Factory and Moosonee representatives also discussed the need for a more efficient surface transportation facility between their two communities. They cited many problems in gaining access to the services of the medical and educational facilities already available to them. It was remarked that there are approximately 110 students from Moose Factory who are receiving their education in communities south of James Bay who could be attending the Education Centre in Moosonee, if transportation was less complex. The construction of a Causeway, linking the island to the mainland was offered as a possible solution.

Although this initial meeting was mainly exploratory in nature, it should provide the basis for a number of interesting future meetings on Provincial matters.

The delegates elected Chief Tom Archibald, Chief Bob Vincent and David Faries as trustees for the management of funds and the planning of future meetings.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

The Indian Community Branch made two appointments recently to fill the vacancies in the Community Resource Officer staff: Mr. Ralph Sullivan for the Dryden office and Mr. Jeff Perkins for Moosonee.

Mr. Sullivan has been involved with Indian young people as a teacher and principal with the Dryden Public School Board.

Mr. Perkins recently graduated from the Lakehead University with an honors degree in geography. He has also worked in the Northwest Territories as a Development Officer with the Northern Canadian Power Commission and Territorial Government.

RESERVES DEVELOP RECREATION PROGRAM

Applications to establish a Community Program of Recreation on the Shoal Lake Indian Reserve and the Whitefish Bay Reserve under the terms of "Regulation 200, R.S.O. 1970, Programs of Recreation" were approved recently by the Minister of Community and Social Services.

These programs, operated by the bands, will be directed, managed and controlled by a committee of residents of the reserves and members of the Council.

The purpose of the legislation is to assist communities with grants to meet part of the expenses for salaries, maintenance and operating costs for the previous year. The size of any grant is determined by the number and qualifications of people employed and population served. The Minister, however, may approve a special grant of up to, but not more than \$5,000 for a recreation program in a territory without municipal organization or on an Indian Reserve. This grant is not to exceed the total funds contributed by the Council for recreational purposes in the preceding year.

Reserves that are interested in more information should contact the Regional Consultant, Youth and Recreation Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services in their area.

ARTS AND CRAFTS COMPETITION

Of special interest to Indian people in the field of arts and crafts, is the Ministry of Industry and Tourism's announcement of the Craft Eedee Competition.

Eedee is an Ontario Government award for excellence of design which, in the past, was used to promote good design in the apparel and furniture industry.

This coveted award will now give recognition to designers and manufacturers of Ontario craft with products for market production in the gift and souvenir trade both at home and abroad.

At each of the competitions, a panel of experts will provide specific information on governmental financial services, marketing, technology and design.

To ensure province-wide encouragement, the Ontario Government will hold seven Craft Eedee competitions centered in Toronto, London, North Bay, Peterborough, Kingston, Ottawa and Kenora between now and mid-May.

Additional information is available from Mr. J.W. Fulton or Mr. D.G. Prentice at the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, Hearst Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto or by telephoning (416) 965-5701.

REGIONAL CHIEFS MEET AT SUDBURY

The Chief and representatives of reserves in the Algoma-Manitoulin-Sudbury Region continued their discussions under Meeting '72 at Sudbury on Jan. 27-28. Chief Michael Roy of Wikemikong acted as chairman for the two-day meeting which covered topics relating to housing, sales tax, municipal affairs and natural resources.

Resource people in attendance included Mr. R. Vendette, Regional Assessment Commissioner and Mr. S. Garland, Director, Retail Sales Tax Branch, Ministry of Revenue.

The Ontario Housing Corporation was represented by Mr. Robert Bradley, Director, Community Relations Branch, Toronto and Mr. Pat Condon, Housing Operations, Sudbury. Mr. Ron Christie, Outdoor Recreations Programs and Mr. Jim Shepherd of the Fish and Wildlife Branch represented the Ministry of Natural Resources. Mr. Bruce McKay, Assistant-Director, headed the support group from the Indian Community Branch.

VTR (Video Tape Recording) Services to record the program were provided by the CORAID communications team.

The meeting also re-appointed Chief Michael Roy as Chairman and Mr. Henry Peltier, Mr. Stan Nolan and Mrs. Rita Osawabine as trustees for Meeting '73.

PETERBOROUGH REGIONAL MEETING

The Peterborough-Georgian Bay region Chiefs and delegates (under the co-ordination of CORAID) held a meeting Feb. 10-11, at the Geneva Park Conference Center, Orillia.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. L. Monague, Christian Island, a review was made of topics covered at the previous meeting and the amount of progress achieved was reported. The delegates also viewed a VTR report of the Jan. 12 Police Liaison Committee meeting.

Mrs. Elma Roberts of the Provincial Day Nurseries Branch, detailed the work of the Branch and gave an illustrated presentation of the day nursery centre at Curve Lake. Many of the delegates expressed a keen interest in the program.

Group discussions on education and communication were also held. It was learned that any contract between the Indian Affairs Branch and an off-reserve local school for the education of Indian children must now have the approval of the band council.

Mr. Al Bigwin, Ministry of Education, Dr. E.S. Rogers, Royal Ontario Museum Mr. Jules Lambert and Mr. Jack Grover of DIA & ND (Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development), Mr. Welldon, Director, plus Mr. Jim Buller and Miss Pam Wheaton, all of the Indian Community Branch acted as resource people.

Also in attendance were: Miss Anne Whitley of the Human Rights Commission, and Mrs. Millie Redmond of the Toronto Indian Friendship Centre. Both spoke on the work of their respective agencies and responded to numerous questions.

The communication topic covered such matters as the development of effective community action and how to work with government. As an outcome, the group approved the formation of a committee to examine the possibility of publishing a monthly newspaper to complement the VTR program. It was also decided to look into how local radio and television stations could be used to improve communication between Indian communities in the area.

YOU CAN APPEAL

People applying for or already receiving provincial vocational rehabilitation services, Family Benefits, or municipal general assistance, can appeal adverse decisions respecting their eligibility and the amount of assistance they receive.

A new pamphlet put out by the Ministry of Community and Social Services explains this appeal procedure.

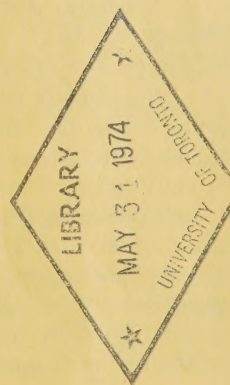
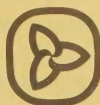
To obtain a copy, contact a regional office of this Ministry (listed in the telephone directory under Government of Ontario) or contact Communications Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Hepburn Block, 7th Floor, Queen's Park, Toronto, M7A 1E9 (965-7252).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Indian Community Branch,
Ministry of Community and
Social Services,
24th floor, University Ave.
Toronto, M7A 1H6.

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